



November 30, 2001

TO: Paula J. Hammond, Chief of Staff

FROM: Kimberly Colburn, Highways & Local Programs (H&LP) Division

SUBJECT: H&LP November Focus Report

OPERATIONAL ITEMS

Endangered Species Act (ESA) 4(d) Program

H&LP staff is continuing to coordinate with the Regional Road Maintenance group in the development of their Regional Road Maintenance program. Local Programs has committed to providing a review of application submittals from member agencies to the 4(d) program of the ESA. Over 30 cities and counties are expected to submit applications to the program in order to receive coverage under the 4(d) rule. The Regional Road Maintenance group will review the initial batch of submittals, while the Local Programs staff will review subsequent application submittals. Brian Hasselbach, H&LP Environmental Analyst, has been working with the Regional Road Maintenance group to define Local Programs' role in this effort and assist in moving reviews forward so they can be submitted to the Federal Register with the final rule.

\$55 Million in Federal Bridge Funds for 40 Local Agency Bridges

H&LP staff worked with the local agency representatives on the Bridge Replacement Advisory Committee (BRAC) to select 40 local agency bridges in need of rehabilitation or replacement. In addition to working through a rigorous selection process that recognizes priorities based on need, a process was implemented to move projects forward to completion more efficiently to assure that the program remains viable and effective.

Construction of Two Major Local Agency Bridges Underway

The Mount Vernon Riverside Bridge and the Olympia 4th Avenue Bridge projects are underway. Both of these critical transportation links have faced challenges due not only to the size of the bridges, but also due to their infringement on important salmon habitat. Northwest and Olympic Region Local Programs staff, supported by H&LP staff, have worked closely with the two city agencies to assist them to achieve very ambitious schedules.

Revised Bridge Inspection Manual for First-of-the-Year Printing

Under federal regulation, transportation agencies are required to accomplish periodic inspections of bridges to guarantee that they are safe and functional for public use. Bridge are often critical to both the safety and economic well being of the residents of our geologically diverse state. H&LP staff worked closely with the Bridge Inspection Committee (BIC), WSDOT representatives, and local agencies across the state to assure not only compliance

with federal requirements, but to publish a clear set of instructions to provide guidance and consistency.

Pedestrian Accident Location (PAL) GIS

H&LP's Community Partnership Program unveiled a GIS Pedestrian Accident Location program that displays all the high pedestrian collision locations on state roadways. The purpose of this program is to allow regional staff to easily access a collision location. Tabular data and visual information is available for each location electronically by simply using a computer mouse to point and click on a location. Each location has a summary of the site including the number and cost of collisions at the site, if the location is a transit stop, if the site has pedestrian oriented lighting, sidewalks, etc. In addition, the user can see an aerial photo of the location to determine land use and driveway locations, SR view of the location, and a map of the site. WSDOT Design Office has been instrumental in developing this application. To access the information, call Suzanna Dethlefs at 360.705.7267. For questions or comments about the program, contact Julie Mercer Matlick at 360.705.7505 or matlicj@wsdot.wa.gov.

Community Partnership Forum

H&LP's Community Partnership Program has initiated a process to implement the Washington State Transportation Commission's "Livable Communities" policy that directs WSDOT to "... foster livable communities in transportation projects within rural and urban areas by working with its partners to:

- Foster multimodal transportation systems that enhance communities;
- Develop collaborative transportation actions sensitive to community values; and
- Coordinate access to funding.”

As a result, the Community Partnership Forum was formed. A number of local agencies, Association of Washington Cities, Sound Transit, Federal Highway Administration, and WSDOT began meeting in September 2001 and will continue to meet through January 2002 to identify roadblocks to effective project planning, design, and delivery. The group is developing a set of recommended "best practices" and included are definitions of joint projects, and a schematic of successful project delivery.

When the set of recommendations is completed, WSDOT will have a document that will be of value for local agencies in understanding the process of a project from conception to completion (a project roadmap), as well as a document that will describe community partnership agreements, report cards for performance, successful conflict resolution models, and many other aides for both WSDOT and local agencies working on partnership type projects.

E-Commerce Applications

H&LP's Washington State Technology Transfer (WST2) Center has completed testing of a web upgrade for their Filemaker Pro based training registration system: TBase. The current TBase system is used to track all WST2 Center training. While this system has been invaluable to WST2 staff, the registration process still required the use of paper forms sent via the mail and manual entry of registration information into TBase. The new WebBase system

will allow students or local agency administrative staff from anywhere in the Northwest to submit an electronic request for training using any web browser on any type of computer. The WST2 Center staff will process these requests and student registration will be accomplished with a single mouse click. As the registration process becomes more automated, H&LP expects this system to save numerous hours currently spent reviewing paper forms and manually entering student registration data.

The Web-based registration system will be moved into production on December 3 along with H&LP's other Web-based E-commerce grant applications, information, and survey applications.

GOOD NEWS ITEMS

2001 IACC Conference and WSDOT's Contribution to Success!

November 6-8, 2001 marked another round of successes for the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) and the Washington State Department of Transportation. This year's conference theme was "Doing the **Right** Thing, At the **Right** Time, The **Right** Way, For the **Right** Price, For the **Right** Reason". More than 350 local, state, federal, and private agency representatives participated in tech teams, training sessions, program sessions, software demonstrations, and networking. The networking was greatly enhanced by the introduction of the 'IACC Baseball Card' trading game.

WSDOT's success took the form of increased involvement and support. This year, WSDOT provided a registration scholarship to a local agency and sponsored one of the breakout rooms used for both training and program sessions. WSDOT involvement included individuals from the Transportation Planning Office, Real Estate Services, the Rail Office, and H&LP's WST2 Center, who volunteered and took part in the presentations. Region Local Programs offices from Eastern, North Central, Northwest, and South Central regions also participated in the conference.

Dave Zevenbergen, H&LP Project Prioritization Engineer, was elected as the new Chairperson of the IACC, a position he will hold for the next two years.

Staff Member Selected for National Safety Campaign

FHWA invited Julie Mercer Matlick, H&LP Community Partnerships Program Manager, to assist the agency in developing a national Pedestrian Safety Engineering Outreach Campaign. The goal of this effort is to reduce pedestrian fatalities and injuries. The campaign will (1) sensitize drivers to the fact that pedestrians are legitimate road users and should always be expected on or near the roadway, (2) teach people about minimizing their risk as pedestrians, and (3) develop program materials to explain or enhance the operation of engineering measures (such as WALK signals, crosswalks, etc.). The materials will be applicable to various mediums (TV, print, radio, cinema) and will be reproducible for adaptation and use by state and local governments and other safety organizations.

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A Helping Hand

Charlie Valentine, H&LP Applications Specialist, used his expertise to lend a helping hand to assist the Secretary's Office with their mailing list and contacts database application. The application was redeveloped to make it function more efficiently and effectively.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Lewis and Clark Highway Interpretive Project Community Workshops held in November

H&LP's Heritage Corridors and Region staff, together with members of the five-agency Lewis and Clark Assistance Team, participated in six local community workshops. The workshops were held along the Lewis and Clark Trail Highway route in Clarkston, Richland, Lyle, Vancouver, Kelso and Long Beach. The workshops were well attended and discussions included design and story themes for the 58 new interpretive panels currently in the first-draft design stages.

Periodically throughout the planning and project phases of preparing for the upcoming bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Lewis and Clark Assistance Team holds public workshops and meetings to promote strong local involvement in the activities proposed by the Team. The Team has been successful in partnering with the WSDOT to install a new trailblazer logo sign on the newly designated portions of the highway along Washington's southern border.

For additional information on these efforts call Judy Lorenzo at 360-705-7274 or explore the Lewis and Clark web links at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ta/PAandI/Lewis&Clark/L&C200.html> for Washington State information or at <http://www.lewisandclark200.org> for National information.

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